

Get it not see my stamp
Mr. Strong's care

Wm. H. 16

Camp near Newmonth Dec 22

Dear Parents



Columbia's step was proud and gay
Peace smiled upon her bowers,
Till treason, like a poisonous snake,
Crept in among the flowers.

I seat my self this
evening to reply to your letter
which I recieved last evening
I was glad to hear that you
were all well yours found me
nearly well & feeling first rate

Uncle Barzilla & also were
over to see me the other day we had a
first rate visit & lots of the Dayton boys
have been over their regt lays about 3
miles from us yesterday I went over
there & stayed till dark I saw so many
that I used to be acquainted with
that I almost thought that I had got
home & see by your letter that you are
worrying about me or have been since
the last battle but I hope that you
will feel better before this reaches you
you wanted to know something about
our clothing in the first place we are
fixed very comfortable now Frank

✓ Campbell of Perysburg is my tent
mate now since John Mayer was woun^d
I had a line from John last night he
said that his leg was not quite
as well as when he first got to
Washington but he thinks that he
can save his leg. Frank & myself
has 4 thick Woollen blankets & without
other fixings makes us plenty warm
enough I drew me a new pair of pants
the other day & I am pretty well clothed
up now I shall draw me a dress coat
pretty soon & then I shall have plenty of
clothes for the present the Government furn-
ished us mittens this fall they were poor
things but better than none you ask
something about a box I will tell you about
that wait till you hear from me again
I will tell you what we most stand in
need of to make us very comfortable & that
is butter Cheese & dried fruit I will tell
we have lived on hard bread & salt pork
till we all have the Diarrhoea & have had it quite

a spell & I tell you that Chess & dried
fruit - is one of the best of Changes in
diet & tell Grandmother that she can
send me a mince pie or a little can of
Loney that is if I should send for a box
we are getting a little better fare now &
probbly if we stay here this winter & I think
we shall we shall get potatoes & onions
once in a while & perhaps we shall get a
few Dried apples we should have such things
at every rate you need not do enny thing
about sending enny box untill you hear
from me again & oh what did you have
for Christmas supper I will tell you what
I & Frank had for breakfast & supper we had
some boiled potatoes fried stake & some stewed
apples we bought the thing over to
the Brigade Commissaries & I never
enjoyed enny Christmas supper better
than I did that it was better than we
can afford every day Austin Stafford
was over here the other day & he gave me
1 dollar we have not got enny pay yet
but we expect to get pay for 6 months
the first of January. Over Lieutenant
Colonel & our Colonel came back
right before last I tell you we were
glad to see him he says by up as comfort^{table}
as we can he says that he aint a going to
have much Drill now days

I tell you all but coming out victorious
we got a terrible licking there was an
awfull slaughter & the trouble is we could not
have a chance to furnish them they were
on a high bluff & we had to march over
a large open field & they opened about 100
cannon on our brigad & they slaughtered
us badly our regt never fired a gun
or once now & then one we heard rather
a tough time out there but I am thankful
that I got out as well as I did I never
have got a scratch yet & I have been in
6 hard fights I wish that you could get
into our little tent to night I guess
you would say that we are pretty
comfortable when we came back from the
fight I found 2 fat irishmen in my
Sellar with a good thick canvass tent
over it & a good warm fire in our
fire place & I just told them to climb
on & they did & left the tent it is a
regular officers tent it makes us a
splendid Mansion I mailed you a
paper the other day & I wrote you a letter after
the battle & it seems that you have not
got that as yet I have been promoted since
the last battle to Commissary Sergeant
that is to draw rations for our Co & deliver
them out that excuses me from all guard
duty & all drills it dont make any
more duty & not get as much it
makes a little difference in pay id a month
instead of 3 I must close my love
to all I remain as ever your most
affectionat Son Wilber F. Merrill

Camp near Fulmouth Dec 27 1862

Dear Parents

I seat my self this evening to reply to your letter which I received last evening I was glad to hear that you wer all well yourss found me usaly well & feeling first rate Uncle Barzilla & Alva wer over to see me the other day we had a first rate visite & lots of the Dayton boys have been over their regt lays about 3 miles from us yesterday I went over there & stayed till dark I saw so many that I used to be acquainted with that I almost thought that I had got home& I see by your letter that you are worring about me or have been since the last battle but I hope that you will feel better before this reaches you you wanted to know something about our clothing in the first place we are fixed very comfortable now Frank -- Campbell of Perrysburgh is my tent mate now since John Mayer was wounded I had a line from John last nigh he said that his leg was not quite as well as when he first got to washington but he thinks that ce can save his leg Frank & myself has 4 thick woolen blankets & with our other fixings makes us plenty warm enough I drew me a new pair of pants the other day & I am pretty well clothed up now I shall draw me a dress coat pretty soon & then I shall have plenty of clothes for the present the Government furnished us mitens this fall they were poor things but better than none you asked something about a box I will tell you about that mail till you hear from me again I will tell you what we most stand in need of to make us verry comfortable & I think is butter Chees & dried fruit I will tell we have lived on hard bread & salt pork till we all have the Dire & have had it quite a spell & I tell you that Chees & dried fruit is one of the best of changes in diet & tell Grandmother that she can send me a mince pie or a little can of honey that is if I should send for a box we are getting a little better fare now & probably if we stay here this winter (& I think we shall) we shall get potatoes & onions once in a while & perhaps we shall get a few Dried apples we should have such things at enny rate you need not do enny things about sending enny box untill you hear from me again

Oh what did you have for Christmas supper I will tell you what I & Frank had for breakfast & supper we had some boiled potaotes fried stake & some stewed apples we we bought the thing over to the Brigade Commisaries & I never enjoyed enny Christmas Supper better than I did that it was better than we can afford evey day Austin Stafford was over here the other day & he gave me 1 dollar we have not got enny pay yet but we expect to get pay for 6 months the first of January Our Colone came back night beofre las I tell you we wer glad to see him he sayes fix up as

comfortable as we can he says that he aint agoing to have much Drill now days I tell you all but coming out victorions we got a terrible licking there was an awfull slauter & the trouble is we could not have a chance to punish them they wer on a high bluff & we had to march over a large open field & they opened about 100 cannon on our brigad & slautered us badly our regt never fired a gun or onely now & then one we had rather a tough time out ther but I am thankfull that I got out as well as I did I never have got a scratch yet & I have been in 6 hard fights I wish that you could peep into our little tent to night I guess you would say that we are pretty comfortable when we came back from the fight I found 2 fat irishmen in my sellar witha a good thick canvass tent over it & a good warm fire in our fire place & I just told them to climb out & they did & left the tent it is a regular officers tent it makes us a splendid Manshion I mailed you a paper the other day & I wrote you a letter after the battle & it seemes that you have not got that as yet I have been promoted since the last battle to commisary Sergeant that is to draw rations for our co & deliver them out that ecuses me from all guard duty & all drills it dont make enny more duty & not quit as much it makes a little difference in pay 17 a month instead of 13 I must close my love to all I remain as ever your most affectionat Son Wilber H Merrill